MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir. There is a sanctioned strength of 12 Part-time Correspondents of AIR in the State of Orissa.

(b) Recruitment to additional posts of Part-time Correspondents in the State will depend upon availability of recources, functional requirement etc. As such, no specific time limit can be stipulated for increasing the existing number of Part-time Correspondents in the State.

Infrastructure facilities to News Editors

6529. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regional news unit of All India Radio is provided with sufficient infrastructure to enable news editors for proper import of news;

(b) whether it is a fact that vehicles/ conveyance have not been provided to enable the news persons to collect news from remote areas; and

(c) if so, whether Government are planning to provide vehicles in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Replacement of vehicles is an on going exercise and is taken up in a phased manner.

Setting up of new TV Transmitters in Gujarat

6530. SHRI AHMED MOHED-BHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2713 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government had recently requested the Union Government to instal 51 T.V. transmitters so that all tribal, backward, border and coastal areas are brought in transmitter range;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the proposal; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The Government of Gujarat had vide letter dated 18.1.1990 requested for installation of TV Transmitter at 51 locations in the State.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Reference is invited to the reply given to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2713 of 15.3.1994. Of the four High power, sixteen low power and two Very Low Power Transmitters shown as under implementation/envisaged to be set up there, Bhuj has been augmented from an Low Power Transmitter to 1 KW High Power Transmitter, and a Low Power Transmitter at Khambat has been conmmissoned into service upon the completion of these schemes, the terrestrial coverage of Doordarshan in the State will increase from 65.5% area to 89.7% area, Further expansion of TV network will depend upon the availability of adequate resources for the purpose.